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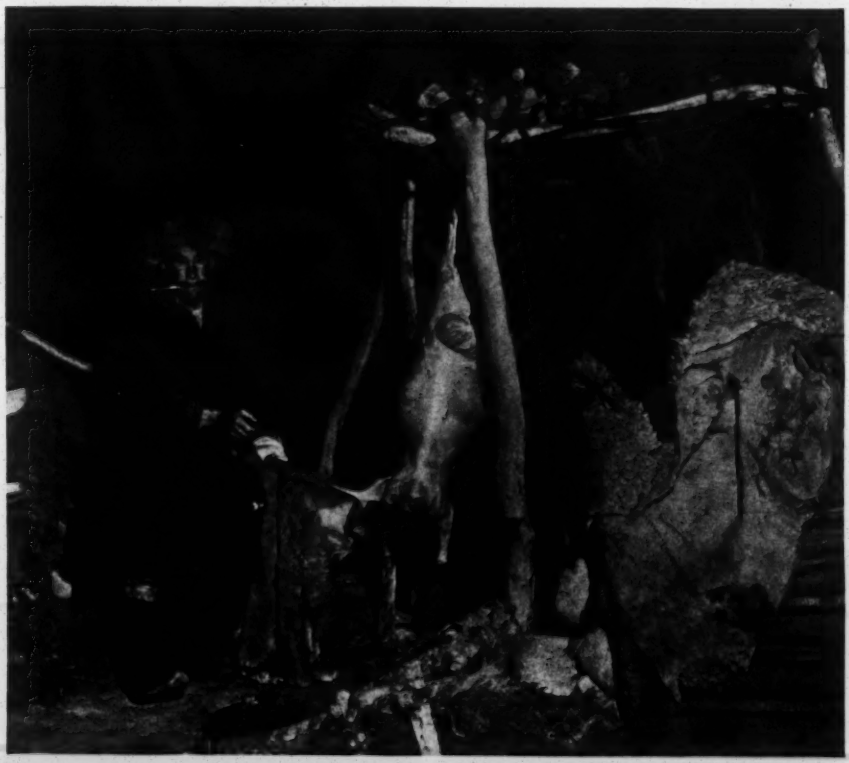

JEAN AND FRANC SHOR

AS EASY AS PULLING OFF A SWEATER, A KNIFE-IN-MOUTH KIRGHIZ SKINS A SHEEP

His home is the lofty and remote Wakhan corridor, a thin arm of northeast Afghanistan extending to China and separating the Soviet Union from Pakistan. An Afghan-Pakistan border incident added its bit to 1950's political turmoil (Bulletin No. 2).

Bulletin No. 1, January 22, 1951

Hong Kong Lives on Edge of Chinese "Volcano"

HONG KONG, the little British crown colony crowded between China and the sea, is like a village clinging to the slope of a great, active volcano. This is especially true now that communists control China.

Hong Kong is a treaty port on China's southern coast. It has been maintained by the British for more than a century. It was seized by the Japanese during World War II, but through the years Hong Kong's main source of concern has been China, whose internal strife has threatened the colony's trade on several occasions.

Only Safe Anchorage Between Shanghai and Indochina

Good relations with China have been a "must" in British colonial policy throughout the past. Protection of Hong Kong was reported a strong consideration in London's early recognition of the communist China government. Now, however, the colony is uneasy; the headlines from Korea raise the question: "Are we next?"

Hong Kong proper is a once-barren island 11 miles long and two to five miles wide. It is separated from the mainland by a magnificent harbor some 17 square miles in extent—the only safe deep-sea anchorage in the typhoon-ridden belt between Shanghai and Indochina. Britain obtained island and harbor in 1841 after a minor war with the Chinese.

Near-by Stonecutter's Island and Kowloon were acquired in 1860. To protect these territories from China's seemingly endless civil disturbances, the British leased a strip of the mainland known as the New Territories. The lease expires in 1997. Today the total area of the entire colony is 391 square miles, a mere dot on its neighbor's vast land mass.

But Hong Kong's importance greatly exceeds its size. It is a free-trade port and the principal key to commerce with south China. Moreover, the colony has long played a middleman role in Far Eastern trade. Cargoes from scores of lesser Asiatic ports are sent there for handling and reshipment because of the port's modern and efficient installations.

View Likened to Rio de Janeiro

In early times the area gave little promise of future greatness. Hong Kong was one of the so-called Thieves Islands, which in the last century were a hideaway for pirates. British pioneers found the island rocky and practically devoid of vegetation. But the strategic importance of the harbor, commanding principal trade routes, was obvious.

Today the modern city of Victoria stands on the island. Victoria Peak, overlooking the harbor, has become a summer homesite for wealthy merchants. Nearly 2,000 feet high and no longer barren, the hill is served by cable tram and buses which climb picturesque twisting roadways. The view of the harbor lights from the Peak is comparable to the famed night scene of glittering Rio de Janeiro.

Kowloon, on the mainland, also has been effectively modernized. The

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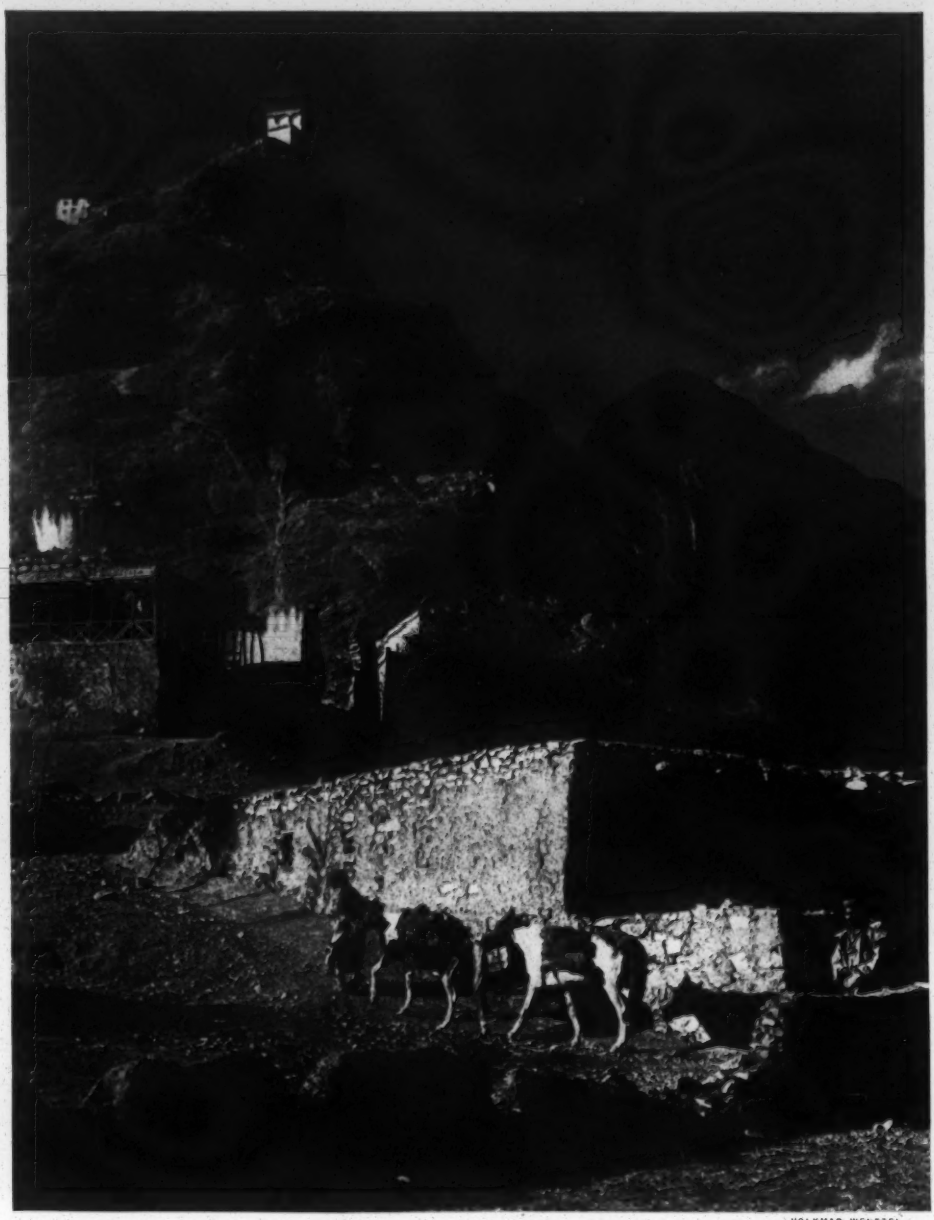

VOLKMAR WENTZEL

INDIA OR PAKISTAN: LADAKH, PART OF THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, AWAITS ITS FATE

1950's political developments did not decide which of the two dominions would absorb this out-of-this-world area (Bulletin No. 2). Ladakhis have close ties to Tibet. This village, Mulbekh, exhibits all the marks of a typical Tibetan community. Atop the crag stands a small lamasery, where Buddhist monks live as close to heaven as possible. At the left the rotund tower marks a chorten, a shrine containing the ashes of pious Buddhists. Below, travelers pass the caravansary, hotel for man and beast.

Troubled 1950 Was "Year of Iron Tiger"

TIBETANS called 1950 the "Year of the Iron Tiger," a name which seemed to describe the clashing of arms and clamorous name-calling that accompanied many of the year's political changes. Tibet itself, where an astrological calendar marks the iron-tiger 12-month period as one of danger and terror, suffered invasion in October by Chinese communists.

In Korea the war unleashed in June with the North Korean communists' attack on South Korea turned against the United Nations forces at the end of the year. Overwhelming numbers of fresh troops from China poured into the conflict and raised the threat of World War III.

Orient in Turmoil

The iron tiger was abroad in French Indochina, now officially called the Associated States of the French Union (Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia). Within this wide peninsula, which extends from the border of China much as Korea dangles southward from Manchuria, French military forces in 1950 continued their years' long battle against the increasingly strong arms of the Moscow-trained communist leader, Ho Chi Minh. One bright spot was seen in the political situation near year's end: negotiations resulted in agreements to transfer practically all internal powers from France to the Associated States.

There was trouble at various points along inner Asia's lofty Himalaya ranges. In feudal Nepal, isolated buffer state between Tibet and northeast India, revolt flared against the government of the all-powerful prime minister. The king was deposed and found refuge in India. His three-year-old grandson was crowned in his stead.

Farther west, Kashmir (illustration, inside cover) remained a sore spot of armed rivalry between Pakistan and India. Next door, another "powderkeg" border area involved Pakistan and Afghanistan (illustration, cover) in violent charges and denials, and aroused fears that the surrounding nations—the Soviet Union, China, India, and Iran—might be brought into the fracas. In this region—setting for Kipling's stories of the North-West Frontier, live the Pathan warriors. The controversy stemmed from an Afghan-supported movement to make "Pukhtunistan" or "Pushtoonistan" an independent territory.

Europe's Problems Simmer

Indonesia (illustration, next page), newly independent, suffered growing pains. The year showed iron-tiger traits on this immense island chain off southeast Asia. The United States of Indonesia, set up the previous year by agreement with the Netherlands, became a single state, the Republic of Indonesia. The new state met with some armed resistance in East Indonesia and an election was still awaited to give the provisional over-all government the backing of votes. In December, representatives of the Indonesian and Netherlands governments gathered at The Hague to discuss the future of Netherlands New Guinea.

Compared with the "hot wars" boiling over the Orient, Europe merely

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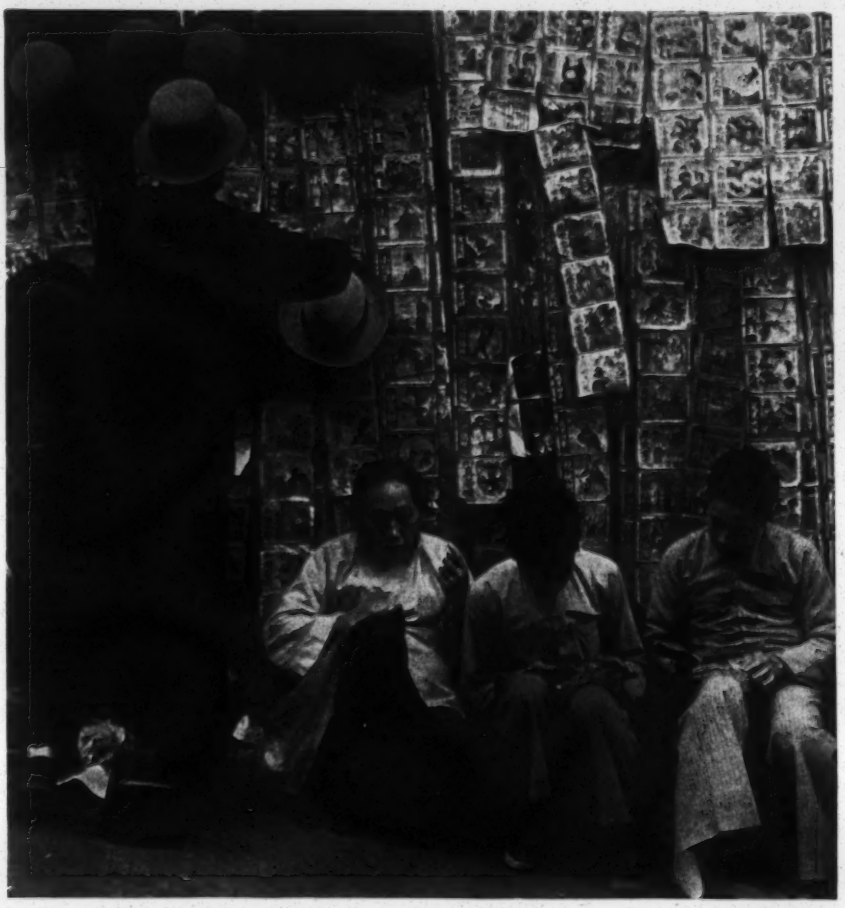
twin cities long have attracted refugee Chinese, the nationality which comprises some 90 per cent of the colony's estimated population of nearly 2,000,000. The British garrison recently has been reinforced.

Hong Kong fell to the Japanese shortly after Pearl Harbor. It was reoccupied in 1945 by the British, who very quickly reasserted their old trade supremacy. To date, trade relations with the communist-controlled mainland have been surprisingly good. But residents long have been aware that Chinese gun batteries command the entrance to their harbor.

NOTE: Hong Kong is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of Southeast Asia on which it appears in a large-scale inset. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "Trawling the China Seas" (18 photographs), in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1950; "Hong Kong Restored" (9 photographs), April, 1947; "Today on the China Coast," February, 1945*; "1940 Paradox in Hong Kong," April, 1940; and "Hong Kong—Britain's Far-flung Outpost in China," March, 1938*. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available in packets of ten for $1.00; issues unmarked are 50¢ a copy.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 20, 1950, "Hong Kong Wedged Between China and Sea."



THREE LIONS

HONG KONG CHINESE START READING THEIR "DIME NOVELS" BEFORE LEAVING THE NEWSSTAND

Bulletin No. 3, January 22, 1951

Savannah River Site Added to Atomic Map

THE selection of a South Carolina site for Uncle Sam's first hydrogen-bomb plant will bring to the already diverse map of atomic-age developments still another region of contrasting scenery and history.

Four states—Washington, New Mexico, Idaho, and Tennessee—provide a kaleidoscopic backdrop for United States atomic-energy works. The scenes shift from the evergreen forests of the northwest to the dry, purple mountains of the southwest; from the weird wasteland of a now-extinct volcanic area of Idaho, to the southern center of hydroelectric power in the Tennessee River basin.

Savannah River Aided Settlement

With the establishment of South Carolina's "Savannah River Plant," as the latest project is to be called, the atomic picture will include an historic border region of river, plain, and piedmont whose memories reach back to the colonial era of American growth. Now it will pioneer in the development of what may turn out to be the world's deadliest weapon. The area reserved lies across the Savannah River and a few miles downstream from Augusta, Georgia. The town of Ellenton, South Carolina, will be obliterated. Aiken, South Carolina, fashionable mid-south resort, lies on the edge of the 250,000-acre preserve.

It was near the mouth of the Savannah River, about 140 miles downstream from the present H-bomb site, that Georgia's first settlement, Savannah, was laid out in 1733 (illustration, next page). Already Charles Town (later Charleston) was a flourishing port a little to the north along the South Carolina coast. Well up the Savannah, the river boundary between Georgia and South Carolina, a South Carolina fur-trading post had been set up and was doing an active business with the Indians.

The English settlers began moving up the river. In 1735, on the Georgia side opposite the trading station, they founded Augusta, now the only large city in the immediate vicinity of the "super-bomb" tract.

Saw Steamboat Before Fulton's

The Savannah River played its part as an important artery of trade and traffic, and sometimes of war, during the turbulent days of colonial expansion and later development. Up and down its waters flowed a procession of products—tobacco, rice, corn, and cotton from river-lining plantations and farms, and lumber, tar, pitch, and turpentine from the broad pine forests.

As early as 1790, nearly two decades before Robert Fulton's successful steamboating on the Hudson, a state-patented steam engine made by an Augusta man pushed a vessel up the Savannah at five miles per hour. In 1819, the seaport of Savannah waved farewell and good luck to the steamship *Savannah*—the first such craft to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Today, about as far upstream from Augusta as the hydrogen-bomb tract is below it, the giant Clarks Hill dam across the Savannah is being pushed toward completion as part of a series of projects de-

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simmered during 1950. A grave frontier problem began to heat up in the summer when Soviet-dominated East Germany signed an agreement with Poland to recognize the Oder-Neisse river boundary. This boundary gave nearly 40,000 square miles of former German territory to Poland.

On the German-French border, the coal-producing Saar made headlines again as the result of a series of agreements with France which included provision for Saar autonomy and 50-year coal leases to France.

In Africa, commitments for the disposition of Italian possessions were put into effect in 1950. Italian Somaliland, which had been administered by the British since it was won in World War II, was returned to Italian rule in April in the form of a United Nations trusteeship. The colony is to be prepared for independence at the end of ten years.

North African Libya, with its three parts, Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, and Fezzan, obtained independence in November. Its national assembly designated as king Mohammed Idris el Senussi, leader of the Senussi sect of Arab Moslems. The United Nations decided the status of another ex-Italian holding in joining to adjacent landlocked Ethiopia the steaming Red Sea area of Eritrea. The Palestine-Arab region, where the iron tiger of danger and terror has been present for several years, found 1950 at least an extension of an armistice period of relative quiet.

W. ROBERT MOORE

NOT THE MONDAY WASH, BUT RAW SUMATRA RUBBER HANGING OUT TO DRY

The milky latex as it comes from the trees congeals into a dense mass and is rolled into sheets. Sumatra is one of the islands of the newly formed Republic of Indonesia.

Bulletin No. 4, January 22, 1951

Clan Traditions Started Tartan as a Costume

TWO centuries ago the wearing of the tartan in Scotland was a criminal offense, punishable by seven years of hard labor on plantations "beyond the seas."

Today plaid is the rage of fashion. Men and women on two continents—regardless of nationality—are wearing plaid patterns in a wide range of clothes, and buying accessories to match. In the rise, fall, and revival of the tartan lies the story of a proud people whose ancient traditions are deeply woven into the patterns of their national dress.

Use of Tartan Forbidden after Culloden

The Scottish tartan was born with the clans. In time it came to symbolize the power of government by family which held the devotion and allegiance of the Highland people from the earliest history of Scotland. The set, or design, of each tartan showed, as accurately as words, to what family a man belonged, where he lived, and the name of his clan leader.

So important was the tartan in the life of the Scot that when England sought to destroy the influence of the clans—after defeating their forces under Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden in 1746—the British government struck first at the beloved tartan. Its use was forbidden except by members of the armed forces.

Tartan—as a woven cloth with stripes of different colors crossing one another at right angles—did not originate in Scotland, however. It is one of the earliest of all patterns to be woven into cloth because it is the simplest design that can be woven on a loom with two or more colors. Egyptians along the Nile wore it at the dawn of history. Romans, before the birth of Christ, trod the streets swathed in tartans.

Later, people in widely separated parts of the world wove the tartan and wore it. By the middle of the 13th century it was the recognized national dress of the Highland clans of Scotland. However, the distinctly Scottish kilt and trews (trousers) did not evolve until after 1600.

Kilt Succeeded Belted Plaid in Fashion March

An early version was the "belted plaid." This required four yards of material two yards wide. Putting it on was a "project." The wearer usually arranged the folds on the ground, then lay down on it and buckled it around him, fastening one end at the right hip. The other end was brought up over the left shoulder, leaving the sword arm free for action.

The kilt, a shorter version, succeeded the more voluminous garment early in the 18th century. The name is derived from a Lowland word meaning a shortened garment. The Lowland Scots at first regarded the kilt as uncouth and vulgar. After the unpopular Act of Union joined England and Scotland in 1707, however, all Scots emphasized their love of things Scottish by wearing the Highland costume. When the law forbidding its use was repealed in 1782, poverty—among other circumstances—prevented the widespread return to the tartan.

The famous Black Watch regiment (named from the somber colors of

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signed to provide electric power, flood-control facilities, and in general to improve navigation on this vital two-state waterway. Seventy per cent of the work on the Clarks Hill dam is reported already finished.

A number of factories operate in the upper Savannah valley. They turn out such civilian goods as textiles, plywood, clay products, and fertilizer. Most of them lie outside South Carolina's big bomb project.

NOTE: The region selected for the bomb project may be located on the Society's map of the Southeastern United States.

For additional information, see "Dixie Spins the Wheels of Industry," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1949; "Charleston: Where Mellow Past and Present Meet," March, 1939; and "The Ashley River and Its Gardens," May, 1926.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 25, 1949, "Idaho Atomic Plant near 'Craters of Moon'"; and "Atomic Center Modernizes Ancient Harwell," November 15, 1948.

WALTER LAYMAN

JAMES OGLETHORPE, 218 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, FOUNDED THE FIRST SAVANNAH RIVER SETTLEMENT

Here his statue stands in Savannah, Georgia, the city he started on its way in 1733 by bringing 120 colonists from England and settling them on the Savannah River, 18 miles from its mouth. His efforts resulted in Georgia's becoming the 13th and southernmost of the English colonies in North America; hence, one of the 13 original states.

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Bulletin No. 5, January 22, 1951

Jordan Administers "Arab Palestine"

IN the Bible lands beyond the Mediterranean, recent changes have made more work for the map maker. The annexation of "Arab Palestine" by the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan in effect has outlined new boundaries with the postwar Republic of Israel, though the boundaries have not been accepted as final.

The territory involved amounts to a little more than 2,000 square miles. Occupied by Jordan forces during the Israeli-Arab conflict, it covers two big bulges spreading westward from the old Jordan River-Dead Sea border between Jordan and Palestine.

Palestine Is No More

The area taken over by Jordan (formerly called Trans-Jordan) is less than 1/15th of that kingdom's total area. But the addition has roughly trebled the population, raising it from an estimated 400,000 to more than a million, including the Arab refugees.

The changes have erased Palestine as a place name and political entity. The Jordan-annexed territory occupies the broad hilly heartland of what was British-mandated Palestine. In the west, not far from Israel's big port of Tel Aviv, it reaches within ten miles of the Mediterranean coast. South, adjoining Egypt, the Gaza strip is administered by Egyptian authorities. Inside the Jordan slice of the Palestine pie lie Bethlehem, birthplace of Christ; Jericho, whose walls came tumbling down at the blast of Joshua's trumpets, in the Biblical account; and Old Jerusalem, with its sacred shrines of Christianity, Mohammedanism, and Judaism. New Jerusalem, the modern, expanding city just outside the old walled town (illustration, next page), remains part of Israel. It now is the Israeli capital.

In its climate and terrain, Jordan's new territory is a kind of geographic middle way, lying between Israel's green, fertile regions surrounding the Sea of Galilee in the north, and its Negeb Desert in the south.

Jordan River Promises Progress

For the most part, this region, known informally as Arab Palestine, is a succession of eroded, often barren hills, broken by occasional fertile valleys in which grains, olives, grapes, and other fruits grow well. Away from the population and market centers, robed and turbaned shepherds still tend their sheep and goats, leading lives little changed from Bible days.

Future economic progress, however, is seen in the presence there of two of the world's most fantastic natural phenomena—the bizarre Jordan Valley and the landlocked, salt-rich Dead Sea, 1,286 feet below sea level. The Jordan River Valley, a remarkable, trenchlike depression in the earth's surface, offers promising development possibilities for irrigation and hydroelectric power. Engineering projects for a JVA (Jordan Valley Authority) have long been planned in Israel, and a United Nations Economic Survey Mission has recently looked into the possibilities with regard to Arab Palestine and Jordan.

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its tartan) and other Scottish military units, recruited from the Highlands before 1746, saved the kilt from extinction. Exempt from the Proscription Act, the Highland regiments made their distinctive costume world famous. Their fierce fighting and great gallantry in two world wars earned them the name "Ladies from Hell."

British royalty since George IV has encouraged civilians to use tartans. Princess Margaret wears a red and green tartan especially designed for her. Her father, King George VI, helped start the current fashion by entertaining informally in a dinner jacket of tartan design.

The original Highland tartans were designed for special clans. Although there are only 31 clans, there are 96 Highland tartans, owing to the fact that some clans have several. The chieftain may have one; his followers often have different designs for different occasions. Modern design uses its imagination and lets colors run riot in plaids woven for wearers who never crossed the Tweed or picked a thistle, but to whom the old Scottish costume has a gay appeal.

D. R. ANDERSON

TARTANS WAVE AND MATCHING RIBBONS FLUTTER AS HIGHLAND LASSIES DANCE A REEL

Flinging arms and tartan-clad legs with such vigor that one of the four dancers is hidden in the shuffle—only her legs, mysteriously, appear (left)—these agile Scots perform the Reel o' Tulloch, a dance much like the Highland Fling. When there is no claim to a family tartan, the Royal Stuart may be worn. This represents a cause—the Jacobite, or Stuart—rather than a single clan.

With its annexation of the Palestine territory, Jordan now has possession of both sides of two-thirds of the Jordan Valley below the Sea of Galilee. It also holds both shores of the northern reaches of the Dead Sea, where the main plant of the mineral salts company, Palestine Potash, Limited, was in operation before the 1948 outbreak of hostilities in the area.

This plant, together with its other works at the southern end of the Dead Sea, which Israel still holds, supplied the bulk of British potash and bromine used in World War II.

NOTE: Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan may be located on the Society's map of Europe and the Near East. (At the time of the map's publication, the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan was known as Trans-Jordan, and Israel's borders were considerably different. The name Palestine was still used. The full-page map accompanying the article, "Home to the Holy Land," in the December, 1950, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine* shows the borders as recently revised.)

For additional information, see "Home to the Holy Land," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1950; "An Archeologist Looks at Palestine" and "Arab Land Beyond the Jordan" (18 color photographs), December, 1947; "Palestine Today," October, 1946; "American Fighters Visit Bible Lands," March, 1946*; "Geography of the Jordan," December, 1944; "On the Trail of King Solomon's Mines," February, 1944*; "Bombs over Bible Lands," August, 1941; "Canoeing Down the River Jordan," December, 1940; "Change Comes to Bible Lands," December, 1938; and "Bedouin Life in Bible Lands," January, 1937*.

INTERNATIONAL

LIKE AN AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN METROPOLIS IS NEW JERUSALEM, THE ISRAELI PORTION OF THE HOLY CITY

This is Zion Square, outside the city walls of Old Jerusalem. The Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan administers the walled city, which contains nearly all the Bible landmarks.